

MIDSTATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPRING  
FIELD  
HAM  
RADIO

**MARC**

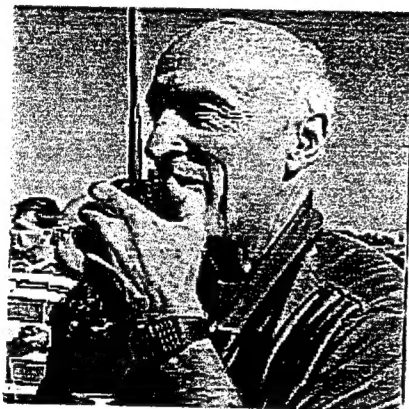
"Ham Radio News from Johnson County, Indiana"

Volume XIII No.10

October 1997

# October is "Get Even" month

We've all been bothered by malicious interference. You know the guy. He's the LID who repeatedly kerchunks the repeater - worse, uses foul language over the air in an attempt to make everyone mad. It works. Well, now is the time to get mad and get even with the idiot who violates the basic operating rules of Amateur Radio. October is "Get Even" month at the Mid-State ARC meeting. Paul

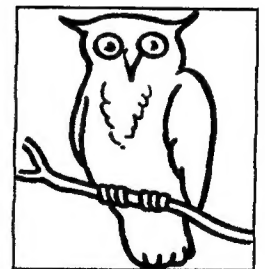


Paul Bohrer-W9DUU finds the Windtrax transmitter in field on southside of Indy.

Bohrer-W9DUU will be on hand to explain the equipment and methods necessary to catch a frequency jammer. Following the meeting everyone with DF equipment is invited to find the low powered transmitter that Paul has hidden somewhere in Johnson County. Paul will have build-it-yourself DFing kits for sale after the meeting. Fox hunting equipment can also be used to chase the Windtrax balloons as they fly across Indiana. Let's put an end to the malicious interference by building a group of fox hunters to track down the lousy LID. --MARC

## Goblin patrol set

With an eye toward mischief and seasonal vandalism the Johnson County Sheriff's Department and the Mid-State ARC will combine forces to patrol Johnson County Halloween night October 31. According to county officials the use of Amateur Radio operators in unmarked vehicles has resulted in fewer reports of vandalism on beggars night. The extra cars provide a measure of safety to the Trick-or-treaters. The Halloween Night patrols will be controlled from the Emergency Operations Center. An Amateur Radio net control operator will work with sheriff's dispatchers in coordinating information and patrols around the county. Patrols will cover only rural areas of Johnson County. School yards, cemeteries and neighborhoods will be checked periodically for any suspicious activity. Net control is scheduled to start at 6 p.m. and run until 9:30 p.m. or until released by the sheriff. All participating ham radio operators will be asked to provide a description of their vehicle and its license number. Further details will be announced at the October meeting and on the regular Sunday night net at 7 p.m. -MARC



# SPARK GAP

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## *Membership Information*

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is a Franklin Based organization open to all Amateur Radio operators in central Indiana.

The MARC meets the third Saturday of each month in the training room of the Johnson County Emergency Operations Center at 1100 Hospital Road in Franklin, In.

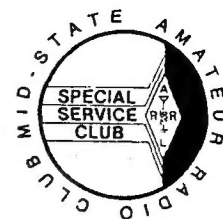
The MARC operates a 2-meter repeater at 146.835 Mhz. Each club member has free access to the repeater and autopatch.

Annual dues are \$18.00. VE Testing follows each meeting from March through November.

Submit stories to the editor on disk or via e-mail by the 3rd of each month.

Send change-of-address info and membership application to the club treasurer @ MARC, P.O. Box 836, Franklin, In. 46131.

The Spark Gap is published monthly by the Mid-State ARC.



# CLUB OFFICERS

## *President:*

Rick Reneau, KB9NDF

H. 780-1803

## *Vice President:*

George Weimer, KG9HU

H. 882-5081

## *Secretary:*

Marilyn Parton, N9TUK

H. 535-9910

## *Treasurer/ARES:*

Vernon Gill, N9QBO

H. 738-4575

## *RACES Director:*

Richard Jasinski, KB9LJM

H. 889-8962

## *Repeater Trustee:*

Dave Julian, WB9YIG

H. 887-9504

## *Activities:*

Jack Parker, NT9J

H. 881-0817

## *VE Team Coordinator:*

Dave Wendt, KA9OOH

H. 974-1488

# CLUB MEETING

**Saturday October 18th**

**8 a.m.**

**Johnson County EOC**

**VE TESTING 9 A.M. E.O.C.**

# The Prez Speaks

by Rick Reneau-KB9NDF

Well, here we are. Another year in the life of MARC. I haven't been in Amateur Radio as long as most club members (no insult intended) but it's an exhilarating hobby. I have had a lot of time to listen and even add my 2-cents worth to a few conversations. But when I look over a listing of members and consider the total amount of experience the membership offers, it's amazing to think about the talent and resources this club has to offer both to itself and to the communities it serves.

I've had lots of opportunities to chat with many of you, whether you wanted to or not, and I have met some interesting people and learned that there's more to this hobby than any one person can possibly know. That's why a group of individuals got together and formed the club. It's a fascinating hobby.

I'm new to all this president stuff, but I've had a lot of you come up and wish me well and offer your support. I plan on adding you to it at some time during the coming year. I also want to acknowledge Denny Parton and thank him for his hard work this past year. Denny worked under difficult circumstances when my brother Dave jumped ship and left Denny holding the bag. By the way, contrary to popular opinion, it wasn't the "macaroni incident" that made Dave leave town, he really did get transferred to New York. (Jack please blackout that last line on the copy you send to my brother Dave)

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## Words of wisdom

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Here's where I have to talk like a president, though. Over the past several months, I have watched the club turn on itself. We have a hobby where communication is its sole reason for being. We have some of the most talented people in the hobby as members; and we have some new members with terrific potential to be considered for future "most talented" status. We have a great group. If we all agreed on everything, all the time, there would be no reason for the club to exist because most of us would be unnecessary. We have to take the time to remember we can have honest differences of opinion, but when we work together, all of us have more to offer than any of us do individually. Other than that we're just a bunch of people that meet for breakfast and swap radio stories.

Having said that, I would like for each and every one of us to

stop and think about the reason we first started in the hobby and to remember the excitement that we felt when we passed our first tests. It takes a lot of work to get a license. Maybe not as much as it used to in some areas, but a code test still makes folks just as nervous today as it did 30 years ago. It takes a certain level of desire and dedication to obtain the license just to get started. Except for flying I can't think of many other hobbies that require that kind of effort (or a license).

I know when I've watched the VE sessions after club meetings I've seen the serious looks on people's faces as they prepare to take a test; either written or code. These people want to move up the ladder. They want the prestige, privileges and personal satisfaction that passing those tests gives them. I also know from listening to a lot of members, that there are many more out there that want to upgrade. For some it seems easy, for some it takes a little more work. We have a lot of members that want to make that move, but they're overwhelmed and don't know where to begin. Some can go it alone, others would prefer to be part of a class - either organized or informal. That's where we need our experienced members to step forward and share their talents.

## WANTED: NEW IDEAS

How many of us remember the Elmer that gave us the encouragement to go after the next theory test? What about those that got us started on code? I know that I have worked some people on 40 meters recently that went out of their way to encourage me and gave me the practice I needed, at a speed I could copy. They could have been working far more exotic calls at 25-30 words per minute than a KB9 at 10 wpm. Their willingness to forgo the pursuit of that exotic callsign helped me get the practice I needed to move on up.

If you have an idea you would like to share, or if you would be willing to volunteer to help work on a project please give me a call. My phone number is listed in the front of the newsletter and (much to my wife's chagrin) I'm a talker. For that matter, I'm generally not hard to find on the air either (much to our repeater's chagrin) so look me up or give a shout for me. Either way, I'm interested in hearing your ideas about how we can revitalize the club and motivate the membership to move forward.

73 ES CUL

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Monda Holland	
N9RDR 10/4	
Steven Haines	Roger Lowary W9BZ
N9NBX 10/5	10/21
James Smith WV9W	Peter Lenges KA9SWI
10/7	10/23
Vernie Parton	Richard Hodson KI9T
AA9LR 10/16	10/25

## Skies the limit for Windtrax



Chuck Crist-WB9IHS listens for the launch countdown on Windtrax-14

While Indianapolis astronaut David Wolf was racing toward the space station Mir September 27th, dozens of New Augusta Public Academy students were launching their own sub-orbital satellite. This was another in a series of high altitude balloon experiments headed by Chuck Crist-WB9IHS.

Nearly 100

students and parents turned out for the early morning launch. The middle school students teamed up with local Amateur Radio operators to create a nine station mission control in the school's science lab. Bill Brinkmann-AA9UV advised the students on how to run a 2-meter/70 cm crossband repeater net. The repeater was one of three packages carried under the balloon during the two hour flight. Live color pictures were fed back to mission control via Amateur TV while longitude, latitude and altitude data was displayed from the on board

GPS/packet unit. Inside and outside package temperatures were displayed on a computer monitor during the flight. Tom Chance-WB9WKS built the sensor package and wrote the software for the display. The balloon traveled over 18 miles before coming to rest in a soy bean field near Combs Road and Stop 11 Road in southern Marion County. Jack Parker-NT9J and Paul Bohrer-W9DUU were among several area hams that used directional finding equipment to track the balloon and packages. Over 50 Amateur Radio operators from five states checked-in through the crossband repeater or via the 75 meter HF net. Windtrax organizers are working to schedule a launch next year with a Johnson County school. All recommendations should be directed to Chuck Crist.--MARC

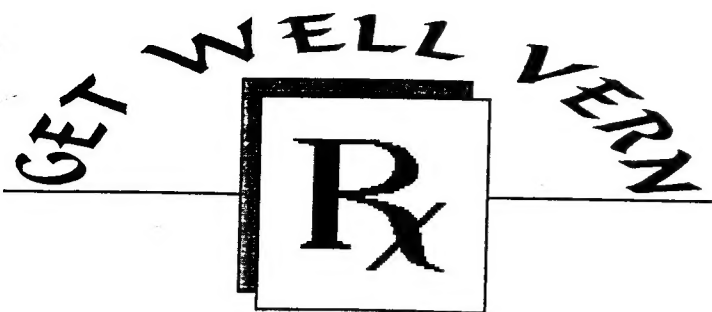


Terry Hudson-KT9V holds the ATV package recovered from the soybean field. Three cameras are used during flight

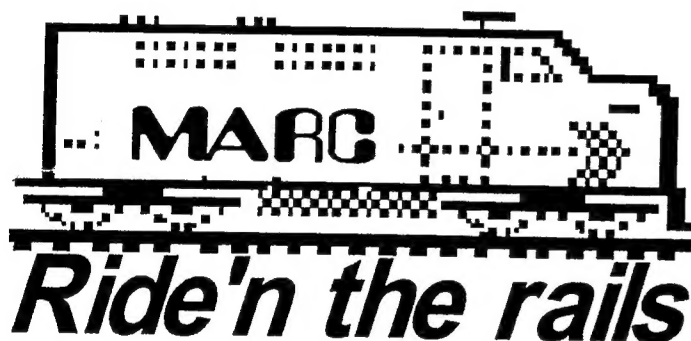
## R.A.C.E.S. Alerted

Thousands of Johnson County residents were left without emergency phone service October 7th when a major fiber optic cable link was cut by construction works in Marion County. The three county outage killed the E-911 system, forcing Johnson County Sheriff's dispatchers to rely on direct telephone lines for emergencies. Johnson County R.A.C.E.S. was put on standby alert while the outage existed. R.A.C.E.S. Director Richard Jasinski-KB9LJM ran the net from the county Emergency Operations Center. Normal telephone service was restored by 9 p.m. that evening. --MARC





Sometimes the simple things in life can be the best medicine. According to inside sources Vernon Gill-N9QBO was allowed to monitor the regular Sunday night net from his critical care bed at the Johnson County Memorial Hospital October 5th. Vernon is recovering from a stroke suffered two weeks ago. Over sixty Amateur Radio operators checked-in and offered their best wishes for a speedy recovery. Some believe that may have been a record number of check-ins for the Sunday night radio net. JR Osborne-KB9HSE served as net control during Vern's absence. We hope the bedside HT proves to be the best prescription for a speedy recovery. --MARC

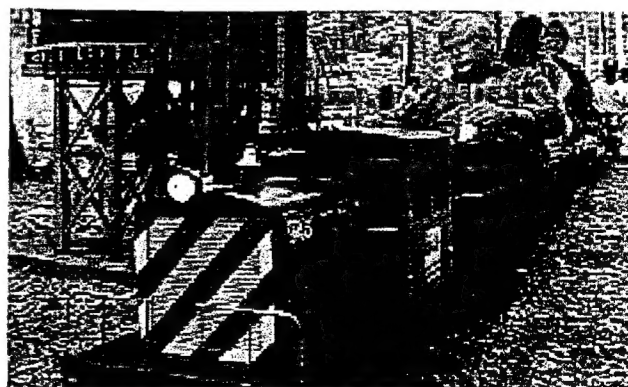


Blue skies and warm temperatures made for a perfect fall visit to the Indiana Live Steam Park at Mt. Nebo last month. A record crowd attended the September meeting. Everyone took turns riding the 1/8 scale trains through the hills and hollars of Morgan County. This was the fourth annual family picnic at the



Congratulations to the new club officers for 1997-1998. Rick Reneau-KB9NDF has been elected President. Rick succeeded Dennis Parton-KB9HPQ. The other board members have been re-elected to another term. George Weimer-KG9HU is Vice President, Vernon Gill-N9QBO is Treasurer and Marilyn Parton-N9TUK

is Secretary. All were elected by acclamation during the September meeting. Dave Julian-WB9YIG has been re-appointed Trustee of the club repeater. Dave was forced to resign earlier this year when professional commitments took him away from his ham radio duties. Welcome back Dave. Our thanks to Bill Brinkmann-AA9UV, formerly KA9ZMU for filling in during Dave's absence. --MARC



rail park. Last year's event was rained out. Marilyn Parton-N9TUK and Vernie-AA9LR took care of getting the ham, soft drinks and other supplies for the picnic. The covered dishes were excellent. Our thanks to the members of the Indiana Live Steam Association. A good time was had by all. --MARC

# Remember When?

From Spark Gap October 1988-Mac McCarty-NV9K Editor

## Good News

MARC members have recently added two new potential hams to the community--Joe KA9ZPA became a father in June and Keenan N9HCK just recently. Congrats to both from all of us. Right now, I'm sure the young ones are communicating in some other way than Morse code, but give them time.

## N9AZD/R

The new repeater shack and tower are just about ready for use. (Located in Whiteland) Apparently, we're waiting mostly for some extra 1/4" guy wire and hardware. If you have some or know where we could get some cheap please let N9DLN or KA9ZPA know. A lot of members have put in a lot of time and work on the machine and we thank them all. The list includes: W9PSD-Pat, WB9UWL-Dick, N9AZD-Tom, N9DON-Joan, NV9K-Mac, NT9J-Jack and W9LNX-Lendal.

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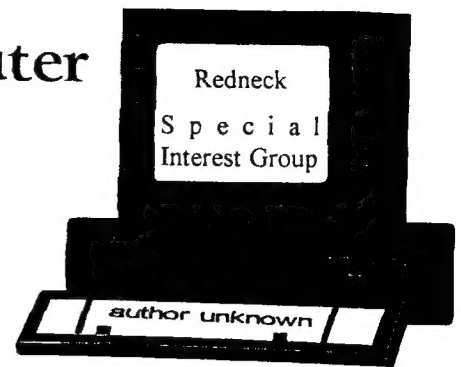
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Wittfield St. is the first street east of Post Road on Tenth St.  
then north on Wittfield to 1217. (RED MAILBOX)

## Computer terms



**BACKUP** : What you do when you run over a skunk in the woods.

**BAR CODE** : Them's the fight'n rules down at the local tavern.

**BUG** : The reason you give for calling in sick.

**BYTE** : What your pitbull dun to cusin Jethro.

**CACHE** : Needed when you run out of food stamps.

**CHIP** : Pasture muffins that you try not to step in.

**COMPUTER TERMINAL** : Time to call the undertaker.

**CRASH** : When you go to junior's party uninvited.

**DIGITAL** : The art of counting on your fingers.

**DISKETTE** : A female Disco dancer.

**FAX** : What you lie about to the IRS.

**HACKER** : Uncle Leroy after 32 years of smoking.

**HARD DRIVE** : Trip to work on a beautiful summer day

**INTERNET** : Where cafeteria workers keep their hair.

**KEYBOARD** : Where you hang the keys to the John Deer.

**MAC** : Big Bubba's favorite fast food.

**MEGAHERTZ** : How your head feels after 17 beers.

**MODEM** : What ya do when the grass gets too high.

**MOUSE PAD** : Where Mickey and Minnie live.

**NETWORK** : Scoop'n up a big fish before it breaks the line.

**ONLINE** : Where you stay when taking the sobriety test.

**ROM** : Where the pope lives.

**RAM** : Old goat out in the pasture

**SCREEN** : Helps keep the skeeters off the porch.

**SERIAL PORT** : A red wine you drink with breakfast.

**SUPERCONDUCTOR** : Amtrak's Employee of the year.